



NEWS RELEASE

Internet: www.ins.usdoj.gov

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Effective June 20 -- Green Card Renewal Applicants to Apply At Local INS Application Support Centers

(NEWARK, NJ) -- In an effort to maximize customer service, effective June 20, 2000, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is providing Green Card renewal applicants in the Newark District the convenience of one-stop, walk-in service at the Newark ASC, located at 24 Commerce Street in Newark and the Hackensack ASC, located at 127 Main Street in Hackensack, from Tuesday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. However, the office may close early due to high volume.

NOTE: *These new procedures apply only to renewal applicants with expiring/expired 10-year Green Cards. All other applicants filing for a new Green Card must apply at their local INS District or Sub-Office -- not at an ASC.*

"I am pleased that we are able to move the Green Card renewal process to our Application Support Centers. Our goal is to make the process more accessible to our customers and improve our service," said Andrea J. Quarantillo, District Director.

To renew their Green Card, applicants should call the INS National Customer Service Center toll-free telephone line **1-800-375-5283** to obtain a Form I-90, "Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card" and application information. (The application form is also available on the INS website at www.ins.usdoj.gov or by calling INS' toll-free forms request line 1-800-870-3676.)

When they come to the Newark or Hackensack ASC, renewal applicants must bring with them:

- A completed Form I-90 and a check or money order for the \$110 application fee;
- Their expiring/expired Green Card;
- Photocopies of both the front and back of the card;
- Two color photographs, as specified on the Form I-90 instructions;
- Personal identification (e.g. driver's license, state issued identification card or passport).
- Renewal applicants whose name has legally changed must bring documentation of the change (e.g. marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order).

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- Renewal applicants who received their Green Card before their 14th birthday and are now over 14, must be fingerprinted. They must bring a check or money order for the additional \$25 fingerprinting fee.

INS will review each application package for completeness and accuracy. If all is in order, INS will attach a sticker to the applicants' expiring/expired Green Card to extend the validity of the card, and return it to them to use as temporary proof of status. The attached sticker will have two hole-punches through the appropriate month and year, indicating how long this temporary proof of status will be valid. Approved renewal applicants will receive their new 10-year Green Card in the mail.

INS reminds lawful permanent residents who were issued a "Green Card" (Form I-551, Alien Registration Receipt Card) with an expiration date approximately 10 years ago that their card will be expiring in the near future and they will need to renew it. Green Card holders can apply up to six months prior to the expiration date of the card (indicated on the front of the card). However, there is no need for applicants to rush to apply for a new card too far in advance since they will be issued temporary proof of their status when they apply in-person for their new Green Card.

Lawful permanent residents with an expiring Green Card will not lose their legal status in the United States -- their lawful permanent resident status will not expire or change. However, they will need to renew their expiring Green Card in order to maintain acceptable evidence of their permanent resident status and avoid possible difficulties in obtaining employment, benefits, and re-entry into the United States after traveling abroad.

INS has been issuing Green Cards with 10-year expiration dates since 1989. INS estimates that approximately 500,000-600,000 lawful permanent residents will need to renew their Green Cards each year. To handle this volume of work and concurrently improve customer service, INS has moved the process of renewing 10-year Green Cards to its more than 120 ASCs. INS' national average processing time is currently about five months, with a goal to reduce it to 90 days by the end of FY 2000 (September 30, 2000).

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